



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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ELYMUS INNOVATUS **NORTHERN WILD-RYE**

Northern Wild-rye is a perennial grass that forms small clumps of stems that are 40-80 cm high and arising from creeping rhizomes. The stiff leaves are 2-4 mm wide and have inrolled margins; they are glabrous on top but minutely roughened on the bottoms. The ligule is ca. 1 mm high and has hairs on the upper margin. Spikelets are arranged opposite each other at each node in a narrow spike that is 4-9 cm long. Spikelets are often purplish and have a pair of narrow, awn-tipped glumes at their base. They have 3-5 flowers, each of which has an awned, hairy lemma that is 5-12 mm long and a smaller palea. Fruiting in June and July.

ELYMUS GLAUCUS lacks rhizomes, the leaf blades are 5-10 mm wide, and the lemmas are smooth.